

**Washington, DC**—Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) today supported two bills in the House of Representatives that will help to lower exorbitant gas prices in the short and long term.

*The Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008* gives grants to mass transit authorities to reduce public transit fares and the

*Energy Markets Emergency Act*

directs the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to use its full authority to halt Wall Street corporate raiders from distorting our energy markets.

“Every day, families and businesses in Texas are suffering with record prices at the gas pump,” said Rodriguez. “Today, Congress continued to take action and I was proud to back legislation that will crack down on Wall Street speculators who experts say are driving up the price of oil, and make public transit more affordable.”

Bills passed on the House floor today included:

- The Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008. The bill gives grants to mass transit authorities to reduce public transit fares, giving consumers a cost-effective alternative to expensive gas prices. The bill’s \$1.7 billion in mass transit grants for the next two years could also be used to expand transit services and for the escalating operating costs of public transportation and would be available to both rural and urban areas.

- The Energy Markets Emergency Act. The Act directs the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use its full authority and most potent emergency tools to curtail excessive speculation and other practices distorting the energy market. Rampant speculation has been cited as one cause of the spike in gas prices. The bill was approved by a bipartisan vote of 402-19.

Prior to today’s votes, Rodriguez has taken action to make America more energy independent and bring down the cost of gasoline. Rodriguez previously supported passed legislation that has been signed into law that will suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from June 30th through the end of the year, creating more supply—and potentially putting the brakes on higher prices. The House also approved the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008. The legislation gives U.S. authorities the ability to prosecute anticompetitive conduct committed by international cartels, like OPEC, that restricts supply and drives up prices. □

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